

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

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P R 131117Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1064

INFO USCINCEUR

SECDEF

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USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJECT: SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS-THIRD ROUND FEB 10-12

REF MADRID 938 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ROUND THREE OF THE SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED FEB 12 ON THE SAME POSITIVE AND REALISTIC NOTE AS CHARACTERIZED FIRST TWO SESSIONS. SPANISH SIDE GIVES EVIDENCE OF WANTING TO CONCLUDE A NEW AGREEMENT AND OF BEING PREPARED TO MAKE COMPROMISES. NEW ELEMENTS ON THE SPANISH SIDE INCLUDED WILLINGNESS TO BACK-OFF FROM PREVIOUS DEMAND FOR A SECURITY COMMITMENT AND TO DISCUSS OTHER AIJNDA ITEMS, PLUS AN AROUSED SENSE OF URGENCY TO GET ON WITH THE NEGOTIATION IN THE TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE CURRENT COMPACT EXPIRES. END SUMMARY.

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1. SECOND DAY OF TALKS ON FEB 11 WAS DEVOTED TO PRESENTATION (BY US SIDE) OF THOUGHTS ON HOW WE MIGHT DEVELOP COMBINED PLANNING GROUP ON THE MILITARY SIDE RESPONSIVE TO SPANISH DESIRES. WHILE SPANISH WITHHELD DETAILED COMMENT, IT WAS CLEAR FROM PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AND FROM A LATE TUESDAY EXPOSITION BY GEN. GUTIERREZ MELLADO THAT THEY ARE VERY RPT VERY INTERESTED. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WAS PTICH BY SPANISH TO PUT THE FACILITIES ON A NEW FOOTING BASED NOT ON THE PREVIOUS QUID-PAYMENT TYPE ARRANGEMENT BUT RATHER AS PART OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND SPAIN IN THE DEFENSE FIELD, INCLUDING COMBINED PLANNING TO MEET AN AGREED THREAT. DIFFERENCES REMAIN ON THE QUESTION OF A COMMAND FUNCTION WITH WHICH THE SPANISH SIDE SEEKS TO ENDOW THE PROPOSED PLANNING GROUP. THE SPANISH WISH TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER IN THE NEXT ROUND.

2. MEETINGS ON FEB 12 WERE DEVOTED TO FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE DEFENSE AREA, DISCUSSION OF COMMUNIQUE, AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS.

3. IN SUMMARY STATEMENT US DELEGATION COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE POSITIVE TONE AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THIRD ROUND AND URGED THAT AT THE NEXT ROUND SPANISH DELEGATION COME PREPARED TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3 AND 4, WITH SUGGESTION THAT, ONCE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS HAS BEGUN, WE CONSIDER DETAILED DISCUSSION IN SMALLER WORKING GROUPS.

4. THE SPANISH SIDE REQUESTED FURTHER CONSIDERATION, AT THE NEXT ROUND, OF WAYS AND MEANS OF "TIGHTENING" THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROPOSED COMBINED PLANNING GROUP AND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE STRUCTURE. DISCUSSION OF THE "NEW RELATIONSHIP" SPAIN SEEKS MUST TAKE ACCOUNT, THE SPANISH SIDE NOTED, OF 1975 REALITIES NOT ONLY IN WESTERN EUROPE AND AMERICAN BUT IN SPAIN AS WELL. FINALLY, IN CONCLUDING STATEMENT, THE LEADER OF THE SPANISH DELEGATION AGREED TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER AGENDA

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ITEMS DURING NEXT ROUND-- WHILE NOTING THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED THAT WE HAD ADDRESSED COMPLETELY THE ISSUES RAISED IN AGENDA ITEMS 1 AND 2.

5. COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED SEPTEL (NOTAL). IN DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS, SPANISH HAVE AGREED TO FOLLOW ROUND FOUR WEEK OF MARCH 10 IN WASHINGTON WITH ROUND FIVE DURING WEEK OF MARCH 31 IN

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